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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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COOPERATING



STATES RELATIONS SERVICE  
OFFICE OF EXTENSION WORK  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

## THIS LOOKS GOOD

THE HENS ARE GOING TENCE.

August and September have come to be par excellence the poultry culling months of the year. This form of demonstration work seems to be gathering force from year to year, though in some States it has passed beyond the demonstration stage and farmers are accepting it as a settled part of poultry management. One little five-year old boy in Will County, Illinois, caught something of what must have been the enthusiasm of the campaign in that county, and thus expressed himself in rhyme, as reported by County Agent Fuller:

"The County Agent came to our house one day,  
He culled out all our chickens to see which ones would lay,  
He talked about the keel bone, capacity, and such,  
He said, 'Keep this hen, but that one don't amount to much,  
Sell off the non-producers, keep only hens that lay,  
A lazy hen doesn't earn her board, she'll never pay her way,'  
So now, Old Hen get busy, and know what you're about,  
Or the County Agent will get you, if you don't watch out."

In Indiana 59 county agents participated in a well planned and executed State-wide campaign, typified by the work in Knox county. Eighteen poultry culling demonstrations were held during August with a total of 74,659 hens reported culled. The United States census gives a total of 215,000 hens in the county and the eighteen culling demonstrations showed 35 per cent of the hens of the county culled. In addition to these, reports from poultry dealers on the type of hens which they have been receiving the past thirty days indicated that at least 50 per cent or a total of 107,500 hens were culled in the county this year. The average number of culls over a period of three years on the farm flocks has been 30 per cent. This would mean that 32,250 culled hens were removed in August. If these hens averaged five pounds each, there is a total of 161,250 pounds marketed. Poultry dealers say there is an average difference in price of three cents per pound on hens between the August and October markets. With this as a basis it means a saving of \$4,837.50 for the August culling. In addition to this, there is the item of feed for 32,250 hens for sixty days which is estimated at \$1,000, making a total saving of \$5,837.50 for the culling campaign.

In the report of I. J. Mathews, county agent in Pulaski County, Indiana, some interesting data are given in connection with the Lewis White poultry demonstration farm being conducted there. The total receipts for ten months are \$1,387.07, of which \$499 has been the cost of feed. The average number of hens has been 387. Factors in the income are: eggs sold, \$1,170.48; stock sold \$148.40 and the flock has contributed \$68.19 toward the living of the family. Interest on the investment to date has been \$27.32, while depreciation totals \$43.71, leaving a net income of \$808.64. It took 302 hours of man and woman labor to do this work, and based on labor there has been a net return of \$2.68 per hour; based on hens, the net return has been \$2.09 per hen; based on months the net return has been \$80.86 per month. The egg production has averaged 108.5 eggs per hen during the last six months.

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